

Minutes: Meeting to Discuss [Children's Network Policy Council]

Date, time, and place

Date: May 24, 2006

Time: noon

Place: County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino

Attendees

Rick Arden, Probation Department

Jeff Broyde, Public Defender

Richard Chinnock, M.D., Loma Linda University Dept. of Pediatrics

Cathy Cimbalo, Department of Children's Services

Mary Lynn Clark, Inland Regional Center

Amy Cousineau, Children's Network

Margaret Easley, Department of Public Health

Rosa Gomez, Department of Behavioral Health

Ron Griffin, Preschool Services

Linda Haugan, Human Services Administration

Stacy Iverson, First 5 San Bernardino

Susan Melanson, Children's Network

Patricia Nickols, Community Action Partnership

Kent Paxton, Children's Network

Allan Rawland, Department of Behavioral Health

Brian Thomson, Department of Children's Services – ARD

Joyce Volsch, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, Loma Linda

Julian Weaver, County Superintendent of Schools

Tammy Williams, Children's Network

Approval of previous minutes

Allan Rawland welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made. Judge McGuire was not present to chair the meeting. Allan distributed a card with a pin that is arrow to signify mental health recovery. Rosa Gomez was introduced as the Interim Deputy Director. A motion was made to accept the agenda as submitted with one change to move agenda item 5.2 before 5.1. A motion was made to approve the April minutes as they were submitted.

**Key points:
Children's
Fund Report**

The following highlights were given:

- Kent Paxton reported on behalf of Rebecca Stafford who was in Washington, D.C. at a conference.
- Recently, the past Children's Fund Board Presidents met to discuss the direction Children's Fund had taken in the past and what direction they need to move towards the next ten years.
- Jack Brown of Stater Brothers was a past President, and is still very active.
- Children's Fund will be having their Board Retreat on July 21st.
- At the Board Retreat some major areas they will be looking at are; SART facility for the Central Valley; expanding the daily referral program to handle 60,000 to 70,000 more referrals by possible serving First 5 contractors; and the First 5 contractors would still be under the same obligation to get the receipts back in a timely fashion to Children's Fund staff.
- Debbie Brown, Jack Brown's wife is planning the 20th Anniversary Gala event for Children's Fund. The event will be in October at the Victoria Gardens and the event will be a Cirque du Soleil.
- Kent mentioned at a presented last Friday morning Children's Fund was presented a check for \$100,000 from the proceeds they were able to raise at the California Speedway.
- Children's Fund was also able to raise \$56,000 through Stater Brothers for a specific campaign Jack Brown had set-up.
- Cathy Cimbalo mentioned another group that could use help with daily referrals are the Kin Caregivers. She asked to have a discussion about it with Children's Fund staff.

**Key points:
Recognition of
Julian Weaver**

The following highlights were given:

- Kent spoke about the long history he had working with Julian.
- Julian really helped get County Superintendent of Schools linked to the community through partnerships with law enforcement on campus, Gangs and Drugs Task Force, and too many activities to mention.
- It was stated the "Education guy can't go".
- Julian was presented a recognition award and was thanked for his dedication to children.
- Julian mentioned he has worked in the Education field since 1970. He started as a schoolteacher. He related to children of color and poverty, so he made a conscious decision to impact their lives as much as possible.
- Julian becomes an Assistant Principal at 26 in a Junior High; and Principal at a High School at 31. The next 30 years he has worked at the administrative level. The last 12 years he works in the San Bernardino County Superintendent of School's Office.

- Dr. Fischer saw the benefit to involve schools in the community so there would be better outcomes and systems for the children.
- Julian mentioned he has enjoyed the close working relationship he has had with several of the Policy Council Members.

**Key points:
Discussion/
Action
requested to
forward the
Child Welfare
Services SIP to
the Board of
Supervisors**

The following highlights were given:

- Brian Thomson referred everyone to his/her agenda packet for further details on the AB 636 System Improvement Plan (SIP).
- In 2004 the State required DCS to perform a peer quality case review. Out of that review, four areas were selected to focus on for improvement: Fairness and Equity; Timeliness to Adoption; ILP – Independent Living Program, Youth Transitioning to Self-Sufficient Adulthood; and Recidivism – Recurrence of Maltreatment.
- The SIP was set for three years, but the State is staggering the renewal process. San Bernardino County was selected in the first round to update the SIP.
- Brian mentioned in January a presentation was given to the Policy Council members as an update.
- The four areas chosen to be identified and focused on for the next three years are: timeliness to adoption; entering ILP transitional services; fairness and equity; and foster care re-entry. The recurrence of abuse was dropped as an area of focus because the stats show that has dropped. The stats show the timeframes for adoption is typically taking 24 months.
- Brian gave the following highlights of some activities they plan to cover over the next three years: standardized risk and safety for post reunification; foster care re-entry due to mental health, behavior, school, and medical issues for high care children; there are plans to implement a soft measure data tracking system; as a part of the countywide Cultural Competence DCS (Department of Children's Services) will be conducting a fairness and equity assessment.
- Cathy Cimbalo mentioned the packet everyone is looking at today is a template. A finalized packet will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval and then will be forwarded to the State.
- Brian mentioned that they have had community assessment teams reviewing data and materials to help on prioritizing. It was mentioned some of the problems reflected in the data were data input errors, which have been corrected.
- Kent mentioned the Cultural Competence Committee has been meeting and has just about finalized an MOU document that will be brought before the Policy Council members for adoption and recommendation to forward to the Board of Supervisors for further action.
- After much discussion, a motion was made to forward the Child

Welfare Services System Improvement Plan to the Board of Supervisors.

**Key points:
Discussion/
Action
requested to
forward the
CAPIT/PSSF
Child Abuse
Prevention
2006-2007
contract
recommendations to the Board
of Supervisors**

The following highlights were given:

- Cathy referred everyone to the document in his/her agenda packet that lists all the contracts to be awarded to the CAPIT (Child Abuse Prevention Intervention Treatment) and PSSF (Promoting Safe Stable Families).
 - These contracts are rolled over annually and are in the second year of the third year period.
 - There were some changes in the contract renewals and they were noted on graphs.
 - For the PSSF lost one program due to a vendor change; increase to Community Action Partnership; and increase to Family Service Agency.
 - There were more changes to the CAPIT contracts; reduction to Desert Mountain SELPA; Lutheran Social Services increase; increase to Christian Counseling Services so they could equip more rooms for PCIT (Parent Child Interactive Therapy); increase to Pacific clinics; same for Children's Network Child Abuse Prevention Campaign; increase for Center for Healing as they are equipped to perform the PCIT.
 - There being no further discussion, a motion was made to carry the recommendations for the contract renewals to the Board of Supervisors on June 6th.
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**Key points:
Discussion
requested
regarding the
sponsorship of
a Foster Care
Summit in San
Bernardino
County**

The following highlights were given:

- Allan Rawland mentioned he was sitting in Julian Weaver's Foster Care Advisory Committee meeting and came up with the idea of having a Foster Care Summit in San Bernardino County.
- There has been Blue Ribbon Committees that have met statewide to discuss how to address foster care issues as related to the Department of Children's Services.
- Allan referred specifically to the Nickels Study that discusses how to be proactive, rather than reactive.
- Cathy Cimbalo mentioned there are currently 5,500 court ordered dependent children and 500 are in placement not necessarily in this county or state.
- Allan mentioned the summit could focus on a sharing of information by the various disciplines serving children.
- Kent mentioned another related issue is the Group Home Policy that may need to be revisited, which is specifically the Moratorium placed on Group Homes.
- Children's Network seems to be the most appropriate vehicle to

spearhead a task force to begin conversations about a Foster Care Summit.

- Allan mentioned there might be some MHSA planning funds available to hire a consultant and possible some partners could contribute some funds to the planning process as well.
 - A goal would be to reach all populations such as: foster care; high risk; co-occurring diagnoses, etc.
 - Kent mentioned the Foster Care Summit could easily be a 2 day conference with so many topics to cover in the late fall or early spring.
 - Julian stated he knew of some providers that would like to be involved.
 - It was suggested to possibly include foster parents and youth.
 - Rosa Gomez mentioned through the DBH they come in contact with foster care youth leaving Juvenile Hall that might want to give input.
 - It was decided that Children's Network would be the sponsoring agency. The following people volunteered or were volunteered to be on the subcommittee: Rick Arden; Margaret Easley; Cathy Cimbalo; Rosa Gomez; Amy Cousineau; Susan Melanson; Kent Paxton; Jeff Broyde; Mary Lynn Clark; Bunny Pinchback; and Allan Rawland.
 - It is expected there will be a formal report after the Foster Care Summit such as; group home procurement document and foster care policy strategy.
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**Key points:
Other**

The following highlights were given:

- Kent stated at the Mynisha's Circle event on May 13th there were 120 people from the community present. The areas of concern have been validated by the community. Mayor Morris and Supervisor Gonzales have agreed to offer \$20,000 to find a non-profit agency to take the lead in this grass roots effort. Kent was also sad to report another shooting a 14-year-old youth in San Bernardino city.
- Kent reported the other project he is busy working on is Operation Phoenix. This Friday, May 26th starting at 8 a.m. will be the Strategic Planning Retreat. There will be many county agencies represented, as well as the city represented. Kent will be writing the protocol after the retreat. San Bernardino City purchased 1450 Waterman for the purpose of providing direct service to the community. Some staff at Cal State San Bernardino University will be in charge of the data collection and reports. One way of coordination was displayed recently, when a local Nazarene Church just received a basketball court for children.
- Julian reported the Youth Center in the desert; staff applied for a California Wellness Grant and will have an interview and site visit on June 5th for a potential award of \$200,000. Allan mentioned that DBH could provide contract mental health services on site. There will be follow-up on the transitional RFP whomever gets the contract.

- Stacy Iverson the Community Investments RFA (Request for Applications) is to engage community-focused agencies in effectively serving young children and their families in San Bernardino County. Applications are being accepted for the following focus areas: Health Care access, Prenatal Care, and Children with Special Needs. The application deadline is July 21st by 5 p.m. There are RFA workshops that are strongly recommended. There will be \$3 million annually for three years available.
- Stacy mentioned another funding opportunity they have available is the Make a Difference Day on October 28th. First 5 have an RFA for play spaces for licensed center-based childcare facilities. The due date is July 14th at 5 p.m. Seven childcare centers will be eligible for the \$800,000.
- Patricia Nichols mentioned through the Community Action Partnership she has funding for 50 slots for camper ships. She plans to dedicate 30 to 40 for foster care children. One purpose will be to reunite siblings whom had to be separated due to placements. Cathy stated DCS has begun going to other agencies for funding of the camper ships.
- Kent stated Children's Fund Board approved camper ships for children in the Foster Care system and adding some of the Kin Care children.
- Allan stated the plan for MHSA is growing due to the Governor's Budget, so there will be an increase for 05/06 of approximately 1.2 billion. During the waiting process, this county has probably lost approximately 2 million dollars. The final approval letter from the state should come in 2 weeks. Hope to go back to the Board of Supervisors the first week in June to be accepting well over 50 million dollars. There will be another RFP to go out for the implementation process. Allan got approval yesterday from the Board of Supervisors to solicit vendors to provide an outpatient Crisis Stabilization Unit and Psychiatric Health Facility for psychiatric services in the Victor Valley area of San Bernardino County. He also got approval for 14 placements for RCL 14 for a program that are identified through the San Bernardino County Interagency Placement Council (IPC) as needing specialized services.
- Allan stated tonight DBH will be having an Evening with the Stars and are expecting over 200. Mayor Morris is the Keynote speaker. Several people will be recognized. He encouraged all to come out and participate.
- Allan shared a project concept about a vacant building H of the old County Hospital on Gilbert Street. He would like to see a program put together for transitional age youth that would be integrated, serve as a crisis center, short-term housing, one-stop services with DCS, Probation, DBH, WDD, PD, and Public Health etc. He envisions the center would handle males and females with up to 48 beds. There

could be a County manager on staff. Youth would be housed on a short-term basis, until they were moved to permanent housing. There would be major issues/money for refurbishing and suggestions such as CDBG grant. An idea mentioned maybe the mayor would be interested, getting youth off of the streets.

- It was suggested that a consultant would need to work with Architecture and Planning.
- Mary Lynn Clark suggested her staff could handle with special needs issues.
- Allan suggested program staff could assist writing a plan that could be presented to County Administration.

Next meeting

June 28, 2006 at noon
